(xii) Abolition of the cadre of mail overseer.

(xiii) Introduction of a cadre of Assistant Sub-Divisional Inspector.

(xiv) Evolving time test for assessing workhour in each B.O. on the same principle as it is done for Departmental Offices.

(xv) Minimum service for eligibility to receive gratuity to be reduced to 5 years from 15 years.

(xvi) The amount of gratuity to be paid at the rate of half months emoluments for every completed year of service.

(xvii) Maximum age limit for recruitment of ED Agents to be 28 years and minimum educational qualifications to be 8th standard. (d) The recommendations made by the Committee are under active consideration of the Government

Crimes against women

1084. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD; SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-RAKANT BHANDARE-SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that crime against women in the metropolitan, towns has been On the increase;

(b) if so, what are the comparative figures showing the different types of crimes against women that took place during 1983, 1984, 1985 and till the end of October, 1986; and

(o) what specific steps have been, taken to effectively curb this trend?

THE MINTSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c) No specific crime bag been mentioned Subjects of 'Public Orde-and 'Police' are in the State List according to VII Schedule to the Constitution. Action for the detection/investigation and prevention of the

Exemption from Forest Conservation Act for Irrigation and Power Projects

1085. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-RAKANTA BHANDARE; SHRI T. CHANDRA-SEKHAR REDDY;

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to
state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have been considering the question of exempting certain irrigation and power projects initiated prior to 1980 from the relevant provisions of the Forest Conservation Act; •

(b) if so, what are the details of such projects; and

(c) what is the extent of forest area likely to be denuded with the implementation thereof and what is Government's final decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHR Z. R. ANSA-RI): (a) In projects where specific orders for dereservation or diversion of forest lands were issued by the State Governments prior to the coming into force of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, permission of the Central Government under the said Act is not required. However, in cases where only administrative approval was given for projects prior to the coming into force of the Act without the issuance of orders of dereservation and diversion of forest lands, prior approval of the Central Government would be required and no exemption of such cases is being contemplated.

(b) and (c)' Do not arise.